

MEMORANDUM
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH
LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909-7979

DATE: April 2005
TO: Families of Children with Special Needs
FROM: Mary Marin, Executive Director, Parent Participation Program (PPP)
Children's Special Health Care Services (CSHCS) Division
SUBJECT: Heart-to-Heart Information Updates

We continue to work to make our services accessible to families. We mail this update to all Michigan families who ask for it. In addition, the past seven editions are now on the web. Click to them at www.michigan.gov/cshcs. If you prefer to read online and want to cancel your mail subscription, please contact PPP Secretary Leah Waters at (313) 456-4381 or waterslea@michigan.gov. ♥

PPP Update

PPP is hosting a Sibshop listserv on the State of Michigan website. We hope that every Sibshop trainer in Michigan will join. The term listserv is short for "list server." That's a software program that allows large numbers of persons to be on one e-mail mailing list.

At our last *Relatively Speaking* conference, several persons asked us to set up a Sibshop listserv. The idea is to share information and ideas about Sibshops across Michigan.

To subscribe, e-mail to listserv@listserv.michigan.gov. Leave the subject line blank. Type in the message's body: SUBSCRIBE MDCH-SIBSHOPS then click <SEND>. For questions or help, phone CSHCS Program Specialist Rebecca Start at 1-800-359-3722.

Parents can get a taste of this form of communicating by joining the SibKids listserv run by siblings expert Don Meyer. His website states, "*SibKids is*

the internet's first listserv for young brothers and sisters of people with special health, developmental, and emotional needs." Parents and adult sibs are welcome to join SibKids, the site says, "*as long as they primarily listen and learn from the young members."* Join at [www.thearc.org/sibling support/sibkids-listserv](http://www.thearc.org/sibling-support/sibkids-listserv). ♥

Michigan teens are quoted in **Sibling Slam Book: What it's REALLY like to have a brother or sister with Special Needs**. The new book edited by Don Meyer displays loving, wise and humorous comments of 80 SibKids. Though the name may imply bashing, "slambook" is simply the name of the format. Each page poses one question. Now found online, Meyer said this style of notebook circulated in his 1960s teen classrooms.

Families may borrow the book from PPP by phoning 1-800-359-3722. ♥

Reminder: Don Meyer will present at PPP's every-other-year "*Relatively Speaking*" conference, Nov. 4 - 6.

CSHCS Update

Michigan's State Constitution requires a balanced budget. However, the state's Fiscal Year (FY 05) budget is not yet balanced. It runs through September 30, 2005. In response, the Governor proposed a variety of ways to erase the current deficit. They must be approved by the Legislature

The **current proposal has budget changes for CSHCS**, said CSHCS Director Kathleen Stiffler. If the Legislature approves the Governor's proposed changes, these changes will likely take effect on May 1:

- The CSHCS payment agreement amount will double for families with incomes at 250% or more of the federal poverty guideline.
- CSHCS modified payment agreements will end.
- CSHCS refunds will end for families who have paid out more in payment agreements than CSHCS spent.

- There will be a four percent rate reduction for most CSHCS and Medicaid providers.

The above changes are part of the proposed FY 05 "negative supplemental budget." Click to details at www.michigan.gov/budget.

Meanwhile, the Governor's proposed FY 06 budget has begun its way through the legislative process. FY 06 runs from Oct. 1, 2005, through Sept. 30, 2006. The Governor's recommendations are subject to hearings and revisions by the Legislature. The last step in the long process is for the Governor to sign the budget bill into law. Deficits are expected again for next fiscal year, so further program cuts are proposed.

Changes for CSHCS as **proposed** by the Governor include that adults who have other insurance will no longer be covered by CSHCS. Stiffler notes that she is checking for clarification of what constitutes "other insurance." The CSHCS adult population is made up of persons with cystic fibrosis or hereditary blood coagulation defects, commonly known as hemophilia.

Stiffler is seeking clarification of how proposed FY 06 Medicaid cuts may affect CSHCS. One Medicaid proposal freezes enrollment for 19- and 20-year-olds in a specific category of beneficiaries under "healthy adults." What is certain, she emphasized, is that the

proposal "will *not* affect any 19- or 20-year-olds eligible for Private Duty Nursing as they are considered 'disabled'."

A physician's tax also is proposed by Medicaid as a way to generate additional revenue, which also will impact physicians serving CSHCS members. According to the State Medicaid Director, those physicians serving CSHCS members and Medicaid beneficiaries will receive rate increases if the tax is approved. The increase in the provider rates should more than make up for what the physicians paid in taxes, if they are serving enough Medicaid beneficiaries. ♥

Resources

The 2005 edition of **Camp-o-rama** is due to be posted at www.ccesa.org under "Links and Files." It lists Michigan camps that specialize in or welcome children with special needs. Families may request a print copy at 1-800-359-3722.

Michigan summer camps also are listed by Bridges4Kids at www.bridges4kids.org.

Families may apply for a camp scholarship of up to \$500 from the *Children With Special Needs Fund*. For details, phone 1-800-359-3722 or go to www.michigan.gov/csnfund. ♥

Events

Riding the Bus With My Sister airs Sunday, May 1, on CBS. Check your local station for the time. The movie is

based on Rachel Simon's book about her relationship with her sister Beth, who has an intellectual disability. In 2003, Rachel discussed the book at "Relatively Speaking." ♥

Dose of Humor

From Butlerwebs.com/jokes/taxes

America is the land of opportunity. Everyone can become a taxpayer.

The Parent Participation Program (PPP) is a section of the Children's Special Health Care Services Division (CSHCS) of the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH).

CSHCS is part of MDCH's Bureau of Children and Family Programs. CSHCS primarily provides medical specialty care to children with a qualifying diagnosis. PPP serves families of all children with special needs. The Family Support Network of Michigan (FSN) is PPP's parent-to-parent support arm.

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CSHCS Family Phone Line
1-800-359-3722
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CSHCS online
www.michigan.gov/cshcs
Free online course on CSHCS
www.training.mihealth.org

Events and Resources are compiled by PPP from a variety of sources. A listing does not denote endorsement.

If you receive multiple copies of this memo by mail, please let us know. To add your name to our postal mailing list or to remove it, families may call our Family Phone Line. Others, please phone (313) 456-4381.
